CLAIMS

1. A ribozyme comprising a nucleotide sequence having the following base sequence (I) or (II):

base sequence (I): 5'-ACCGUUGGUUUCCGUAGUGUAGUGGUUAUCACGUUCG CCUAACACGCGAAAGGUCCCCGGUUCGAAACCGGGCACUACAAACACAACACUGAUGA GGACCGAAAGGUCCGAAACGGGCACGUCGGAAACGGUUUUU-3'

base sequence (II): 5'-ACCGUUGGUUUCCGUAGUGUAGUGGUUAUCACGUUC GCCUAACACGCGAAAGGUCCCCGGUUCGAAACCGGGCACUACAAACCAACACACAACA CUGAUGAGGACCGAAAGGUCCGAAACGGGCACGUCGGAAACGGUUUUU-3'

2. An expression vector comprising DNA encoding the ribozyme according to claim 1.

3. A method of producing the ribozyme according to claim 1 comprising transcribing to RNA with expression vector DNA as a template, wherein said expression vector DNA comprises DNA encoding the ribozyme according to claim 1.

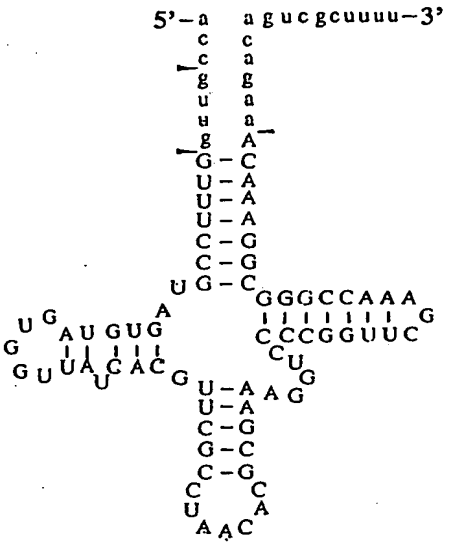
4. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the ribozyme according to claim 1 or the expression vector according to claim 2, as an effective ingredient.

5. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4 for the prevention and/or treatment of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

6. A method of specifically cleaving a target RNA using the ribozyme according to claim 1.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the target RNA is HIV-1 RNA.

8. An RNA variant adopting the following secondary structure (I), wherein said RNA variant comprises a bulge structure introduced in the region in which hydrogen bonds form between nucleotides 8 to 14 and nucleotides 73 to 79.



(I)

9. The RNA variant according to claim 8 comprising a bulge structure which is introduced by substituting all or part of the sequence of the region of nucleotides 73 to 79 within the nucleotide sequence of an RNA adopting secondary structure (I).

10. The RNA variant according to claim 8 consisting of the

sequence of a region corresponding to nucleotides 1-80 within the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1.

11. The RNA variant according to claim 8 consisting of the sequence of a region corresponding to nucleotides 1-86 within the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2.

12. An RNA comprising the RNA variant according claim 8 and a selected RNA chain linked thereto.

13. The RNA according to claim 12 wherein said selected RNA chain is a ribozyme or an antisense RNA.

14. The RNA according to claim 12 wherein a bulge structure is formed with any nucleotide of an RNA chain linked to the 3' terminus and any nucleotide of the region of nucleotides 8 to 14 within the nucleotide sequence of an RNA adopting secondary structure (I).

15. An expression vector comprising DNA encoding the RNA according to claim 12.